a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

(3) Ambient air quality standards and emission standards for industrial units have been notified.

(4) Emissions from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored and action is taken against the defaulting units.

(5) Unleaded petrol is now available throughout the country. Sulphur content in petrol/diesel also has been reduced.

(6) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. More stringent emission norms have also been notified.

(7) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of CNG kits.

Extinction of Medicinal Plants

664. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the medicinal plants which are on the endangering list and the steps taken to protect them from extinction.;

(b) whether it is a fact that the task force of the Planning Commission, headed by its member Shri D.N. Tewari, has submitted a report on the subject; if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to encourage and conserve sustainable use of medicinal plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has prepared a Red Data Book listing the threatened and endangered species of plants including medicinal plants. A list of 29 medicinal plants that are threatened or endangered have been included in the negative list for exports. The plants, plant portions, derivatives and extracts prepared out of these plants obtained from the wild are not allowed

to be exported. In order to protect the endangered medicinal plant species from extinction, such species are not allowed to be drawn from the wild.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Task Force Report has suggested a Strategy and Action Programme which *inter-alia* includes conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. The action Programme includes specific activities for conservation, cultivation, documentation, inventorisation and sustainable use of medicinal plants, involving a number of Ministries and Departments in Government of India.

(c) Measures for conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants include:

(i) *In-situ* regeneration of plants by National Afforestation and Ecodevelopment Board (NAEB) under the Non Timber Forest Produce (NTEP) scheme including medicinal plants. Regeneration of medicinal plants in degraded forest areas under the Joint Forest Management (JFM) scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forest.

(ii) A Central Scheme for cultivation of medicinal plants is funded by the Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy for setting up of medicinal plant gardens.

Cleaning of Ganga

665. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "Ganga more polluted than Norway's sewers", appearing in the Statesman dated 20th June, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to clean the river completely in accordance with Ganga Action Plan initiated by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item indicates that a